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OBSERVATIONS

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ON THE

EFFICACY OF TRACTION

IN THE CURE OF

CONSUMPTION AND ASTHMA:

WITH AUTHENTIC CASES.

BY D. CRONIN ;

LATE SURGEON TO THE LIVERPOOL DISPENSARY FOR THE CURE OF
DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND HEART ; AND
SURGEON TO THE FREE DISPENSARY FOR ASTHMA, CONSUMPTION,
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PREFACE.

THE following pages are intended to call attention to a new and highly efficacious method of treating Consumption and Asthma. I have ~~now~~ practised this method nearly three years, and I have such unequivocal evidence of its efficacy that I venture to recommend it to public confidence. The publicity which I have endeavoured to give to my method, has procured for me the hostility of many who profess to be members of a liberal profession; and these condemn merely upon opinion, without giving a trial,—and a trial, be it remembered, of a means which is, I may say, almost wholly devoid of danger. But it can hardly be wondered at that the profession, at least a part of it, considering their interests invaded, should array themselves in hostility; when a periodical, pretending to unbounded sway, has descended to all the low

trickery of Editorial degradation, to let fly a few shafts at one who has never, in any one way, injured it, or done anything to provoke its natural irascibility. Had the Editor's remarks been the effusions either of a reviewer, or of an individual professing to know anything whatever, either of the operation or its effects, which he would so severely criticise, I should have looked upon it in the usual light of such effusions. But as a gratuitous prostitution of the office of Censor, without any legitimate object, I wish the honorable member all the advantages he may take from his motion.

CONSUMPTION AND ASTHMA.

THE object of the present essay is to bring into notice a mode of treatment so efficacious in the relief and cure of Consumption and Asthma as will hardly be imagined, much less credited, even by the most sanguine. It is a remarkable feature in the history of Consumption, that those suffering most severely from the ravages of this malignant disease, to the last fondly cling to hope; and indulge in anticipated plans of action and conduct, even to the last moment of existence. Though thus sanguine of recovery, many persons, on my plan of cure being explained to them, have doubted the possibility of such innocent and simple treatment proving of the slightest avail. Some, indeed, have refused even to take the trouble of making trial of apparently so inefficient and hopeless a means of relief; until the cures effected in the circle of their own immediate acquaintance have dispelled their doubts

and conquered their scepticism. As for myself, I have no more doubt of the efficacy, and final triumph, of this plan of treatment, than I have of my own existence.

It would be idle to enter into the theory of the present plan. New theories are all liable to error; and as improvements in the treatment of diseases are mostly empirical, so their mode of action is not to be determined with any degree of certainty till after long and matured reflection. No doubt practitioners at first will treat my discovery with indifference;—will look only at its *insignificance*; and will say, that “its imputed powers are totally irreconcilable, and wholly inconsistent with the *dogmas* of *physiology* and sound *pathology*.” Be it so. But let those who will consent to be relieved, or cured, *only* upon strictly philosophical principles, and in accordance with the rules and dogmas of *academical* physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, take care how they minister to the bigotry of professional rules. Repentance perhaps may come when it is too late; and conviction then will only serve to increase their regret. But this is rather too painful a picture to dwell upon; I shall, therefore, proceed to a more agreeable part of my subject.

That the treatment of Consumption has hitherto proved ineffectual, is well attested by the universal consent of the profession. It is true we find many

plans adopted by medical men. Some give one medicine; some another: some trust to the climate of Madeira; some to Torquay: some to one thing, some to another; till the legitimate plans of treatment are almost as numerous and various as the patients themselves, their manners, habits, and dispositions.

It is my object to make my system as public as possible, to induce others to adopt it, and report upon its efficacy. I court fair and unprejudiced inquiry, and am satisfied to leave the question of its efficacy to the public; but more especially to those whose misfortune it may be to be compelled to resort to it for assistance and relief in the agonies of their miseries and distress. In a word, to conclude these few introductory remarks, the plan will be found innocent, simple, devoid of all danger; and what is no small advantage, as well, perhaps, as recommendation, the patients themselves cannot be deceived upon these points, and must feel satisfied, before submitting to the operation, of the perfect innocence and harmlessness of its action.

CONSUMPTION.

CONSUMPTION, also called Phthisis, is a disease of the lungs, by which they are rendered incapable of performing their functions to the proper extent necessary to health. The office of the lungs is a most important one; and consequently any impediment or interruption of their duties, must be attended with the most serious effects upon the general constitution. But, previously to entering upon the subject, it may be as well briefly to notice the structure and functions of those most important organs.

THE LUNGS.—The human body is nourished, supported, and perfected, by the transmission of a vivifying or vital fluid through every even the minutest atom of its structure. This fluid, the blood, is sent by the heart with a force sufficient to carry it through all the minutest and ultimate ramifications of the *aorta*, or the great vessel leading from the heart, and terminating by subdivisions and ramifications in the remotest parts of the body. The blood leaves the heart in a *pure* and perfect state, to supply and

renovate the parts through which it passes; but during this transition, it is deteriorated, vitiated, and rendered unfit for further circulation through the body. In this state it is received by another series of vessels, which coalescing form larger trunks, and ultimately terminate in two great trunks; forming, as it were, one of the great muscular cavities of the heart. This large cavity, then, contains all the impure blood reconveyed by these vessels, the veins, and deposited in the right side of the heart. One of the great veins also receives the chyle, a fluid prepared in the stomach and intestines, and destined ultimately for conversion into pure and perfect blood. Where is this *conversion*, this *elaboration*, as it were, effected? In the *lungs*. These organs occupy the right and left cavities of the chest. Properly speaking, the chest consists of but one cavity, for there is no partition or dividing wall. It is formed, or bounded, posteriorly by the spine, heads and necks of the ribs; laterally by the great concavities of the ribs; anteriorly by the sternum or breast bone, and the cartilaginous articulations, or connections between the ribs and sternum. It is divided or separated from the abdomen by the *diaphragm*, or midriff, which is a muscle capable, by contraction, of descending, and instead of an *arch*, forming a plane, so as greatly to enlarge the cavity of the chest. Hence this is a most important muscle of respiration. The cavity is completed by the muscles of respiration and numerous soft parts enveloping the chest.

The lungs consist of two great divisions, or portions, a right and left, yet almost totally distinct, and each enveloped in its own proper *pleura*, or investing membrane. These organs are furnished each with a large artery formed by the dividing of the great *pulmonary* artery into two—one going to the right and the other to the left lung—almost immediately on its issuing from the right side of the heart. These two arteries, then, subdivide till ultimately they terminate in branches of extreme minuteness. Then the *trachea*, or wind pipe, having arrived at the top of the chest, divides into two portions, termed *bronchi*, one going to each lung, then subdividing into innumerable branches, termed *bronchial tubes*, ultimately ending in cells. Now atmospheric air is the grand agent in purifying and elaborating the blood, and rendering it fit for future circulation; and if this principle be impeded, or diminished, or wholly cut off, impaired health, or death, as the case may be, is the inevitable result. When the air cells of the lungs are filled with air, the heart having by the powerful contraction of its right ventricle injected the pulmonary artery with blood, by the subdivisions of this great vessel ramifying over the membrane forming the air cells, the blood, with which they are filled, is exposed to the purifying influence of the atmospheric air in the cells. The blood, so purified, is received by a series of small vessels, termed pulmonary veins; which, coalescing, form larger trunks, and ultimately enter the left side

of the heart in four trunks, two from each lung, and there deposit the pure blood to be circulated by the left side of the heart throughout the body. Thus there may be said to be two hearts as well as two lungs, which, though connected, are yet perfectly distinct in their cavities. The right heart, it will be understood, circulates the impure blood through the lungs, which the left heart receives back in a purified state, and so circulates it through the body. Now it is perfectly evident, even from this hasty and imperfect sketch, that the office of the lungs is one of the most important in the animal economy, and hence has been named vital. Consequently any derangement of these organs is of especial moment; how much more so then such serious diseases as Consumption and Asthma.

The lungs are subject, in common with other parts, to many and various kinds of diseases, but none of so much consequence as those we are about to consider. It would be idle to enter minutely into the symptoms of Consumption; they are pretty generally known when the disease has advanced; though from their mildness they are often neglected in the beginning, till they have acquired an irremediable and fatal severity. My object, therefore, in noticing the symptoms, is merely to put persons on their guard, and to shew that the slightest coughs and colds, (as they are termed), should not be neglected.

SYMPTOMS.

Consumption frequently shews itself under the most insidious forms. Persons who have had slight coughs or colds, which have soon disappeared without much care or attention, are, perhaps, after exposure to cold, or, indeed, without any obvious cause, seized with cough. This is, at first, slight, but it is obstinate : it does not get well, as similar affections have previously done. There is irritation about the throat, and this appears to be the cause of the cough. A sense of tightness is felt across the chest, as if it were tied round with a cord. A little expectoration now takes place, but so trifling that it is not spit up, but swallowed. A degree of languor and irritability next succeed, and the patient is obviously less disposed to exertion. The expectoration now increases; it is spit out; and assumes different appearances. Sometimes it is clearly mucous; sometimes tinged with blood; but ultimately it assumes a well marked purulent appearance. The skin now becomes hot, the pulse small and thready, the muscular energies become seriously impaired, the patient emaciates, the features sharpen, the face flushes; night sweats and an extreme debility succeed; and the unfortunate sufferer is at last completely prostrated.

In other instances, however, it runs its course more rapidly. Large quantities of blood are spit up; the patient declines rapidly; and perhaps dies within

a period of six weeks from the first appearance of the disease. Stout, florid females are mostly the subjects of such attack; and, from the rapidity of progress, the disease is vulgarly called "*gallopping consumption*." In the advanced stages of this disease, diarrhæa of an obstinate nature generally harasses the patient.

Prognosis.—I do not consider it necessary to enter very minutely into the special history of the diseases of which I profess to treat, because this essay is to be looked upon more as a popular and practical summary, than as a detailed and philosophical history of these affections. It may therefore be sufficient to remind the reader, that Consumption is uniformly regarded by the profession as incurable. It has hence received the emphatically characteristic cognomen of "*Op-probrium Medicorum*:" indeed Consumption and death are synonymous terms in professional phraseology. But perhaps the reader will here exclaim, What is the use, what the object, of such disheartening information? We are well aware of the mortality of Consumption: what is your own opinion? Is Consumption curable, or is it not? For the information, and perhaps for the consolation, of the reader, I declare positively and unequivocally that it is in most instances curable by my method; and I have, within the last two years, by the simple means presently to be described, cured from seven to eight hundred well marked cases of Consumption, many of which had been treated and

given over by men of the very first professional eminence, both in London and the Provinces. It would perhaps be considered invidious to particularize upon these points; but I have only to call the attention of the eminent practitioners of London to the details of cases here given, and I think some of them will recall to mind the extraordinary severity of some of the cases mentioned.

Diagnosis.—The diagnosis of Consumption is not, generally speaking, very difficult. If we find a patient suffering from severe and obstinate cough, and which has resisted all the ordinary means of cure; expectoration of a greenish purulent matter; dyspnoea; a hot dry skin; small thready pulse; red, dry, clammy tongue; hectic flushes; thirst, night sweats, emaciation, and general debility; we may consider such a patient either actually consumptive, or fast verging towards such a state.

OF THE CAUSES.

The causes of Consumption may be regarded as admitting a two-fold division. First, those which excite that morbid condition of the lungs which gives rise to Consumption; and secondly, those conditions themselves.

Now as to the first, I hold it a positive fact that *pressure* is the exciting cause of Consumption: if the chest be not sufficiently expanded, the lungs themselves cannot undergo the natural distention. But why does not the thorax dilate? This is owing to a

debility of the muscles of respiration. We always find, as the symptoms of Consumption go on and increase, that the debility increases, muscular energy decreases, tone is lost, and the dyspnœa almost invariably becomes much more distressing.

The researches of the anatomist after death have shewn a peculiar condition of the lungs, and which has been named the tuberculous. Now this condition presents every variety of appearance, from a few isolated tuberculous spots, to large masses in different states of progress, with cavities occupied more or less extensively with tuberculous matter.

These tubercles are roundish bodies of a pale grey colour, and varying in size from that of a mite to that of a hemp-seed. Sometimes they are very hard, and studded over the surface of the lungs like currants in a Christmas pudding. More commonly they originate on the surface of the air tubes, undergoing various changes in size and consistence. As time advances, they increase in size, and as it were cluster more together, forming irregular groups. At length a yellow speck appears in the centre of each tubercle, which, gradually extending, encroaches on the grey structure of which the tubercle originally consisted, and at last completely displaces it. After a time these groups unite into masses of about the size of a walnut, and becoming moist and soft, feel somewhat greasy, like new cheese when pressed between the fingers. Continuing to soften still further, they ultimately become fluid. This fluid

at first forms in the centre of the mass, and continues to spread till the whole mass is completely broken down and softened. The fluid portion at length gets into the bronchial, or air tubes; and producing irritation, is coughed up and expectorated, leaving a cavity behind.

The above is a summary of what is known as to the condition of the lungs; and the great question is, whether tubercles be the primary or immediate cause; or whether they be only the effect or consequence of some other morbid state or condition. If tubercles be the operating cause of Consumption, evidently their removal should be the grand therapeutical object; but if they be merely an indication or evidence of some other primary morbid agent, it must be clear that the relief or removal of the morbid agent presents the only legitimate, and truly the only effectual, means of cure.

However, even the earlier pathologists looked upon tubercles as the consequences of a consumptive disposition, rather than the cause of that state, and attributed their origin to inflammatory action in the pulmonary organs; and contended that inflammation at some period or other always preceded Consumption. But the existence of tubercles without any evidence whatever of inflammation completely subverts this theory.

Others, on the contrary, assert that Consumption is a disease *sui generis*; and from the fact of tubercles of the glands in the neck and other parts frequently

occurring, look upon it as a scrofulous disease, and that, like those diseases, it is hereditary, and called into activity by the same causes as excite scrofulous diseases of the glands.

Consumption, however, appears to me to originate in a debilitated and weakened state of the body ; and I believe that the debility, so far from being the consequence, is in fact the primary or efficient cause of the disease. This debility arises from a variety of causes : for instance, insufficient diet ; over-exertion ; night-watching ; intemperance ; sudden changes of atmosphere ; cold, and damp ; excessive venery ; and numerous other debilitating agents of a similar description.

This debility, however excited, enervates the system at large, and particularly the muscular system. Hence the muscles lose their tone, and cease to act with due energy and vigour. The muscles of respiration becoming involved, they do not act with due tone, nor to the extent necessary to the proper expansion of the chest. Hence the action of the chest becoming too limited, the lungs cannot expand, and an unnatural pressure by the surrounding and adjacent parts is the consequence.

In proof of this theory, it may be observed, that the lungs are membranous elastic organs, performing, amongst other more important functions, the subordinate one of contributing to expand or enlarge the chest. We have already endeavoured to shew that there is a general loss of nervous energy ; and

that the tone of the muscles, and especially of those of respiration, is completely impaired, nay even destroyed. Debility always arises from loss of nervous power ; and this is felt equally in all parts of the body. In the act of inspiration, the muscles of the chest are powerfully exerted to assist in elevating the ribs and sternum, which parts surround and protect the lungs. In a short time these muscles become enervated by the debilitating effects of other parts of the body, and are consequently so far ineffectual in assisting to elevate the ribs and bony structure surrounding and encompassing the lungs. These organs, being deprived of the assistance of the respiratory muscles, or at least of a portion of them, are forced to increased exertion, as they have still other functions to perform, besides the mere enlargement of the chest. But they speedily participate in the general debility. Now this is proved in that state of disease known as *Dyspnœa*, or difficult breathing, the exact nature of which has hitherto escaped research. Sir James Clarke observes, in reference to this as connected with consumption,—“ It will be found proportionate to the tuberculous state of the lungs, and the rapid progress of the disease :” and further, he says, “ Congestion frequently arises in persons of tuberculous constitution, both before and after the formation of tubercles, and may be one cause of difficulty of breathing.” And again he asserts that difficulty of breathing not unfrequently is supposed to arise from an attack of *hœmoptysis*, or spitting of blood, as he has

often observed, but is unable to account for. Lastly, he considers "that we are unacquainted with all the causes of difficulty of breathing, but that it may arise from a feeble heart, which, by being easily oppressed, gives rise to it."

From what has been advanced, it would appear that even the most eminent of the faculty have great difficulty in accounting for the dyspnoea, so prominent a symptom in phthisis. I merely mention this to draw attention to the explanation which I have to offer in relation to this symptom. We have seen that the bony case enveloping the lungs, being deprived of its natural support, becomes involved in the general debility prevailing throughout the system; the sternum, or front bone of the case, losing the support, and following the course of, the compressed lung, acts upon that organ, as a weight would upon any other spongy and compressible substance.

The lungs being pressed by the sternum in front, and also compressed laterally by the ribs, a sinking or yielding of the latter will shortly become evident by the altered form and figure of the chest; and hence a partial inactivity, to a greater or less extent, in performing the respiratory functions consequently arises.

It is a well established fact in pathology, that in proportion as a part is exercised, so does its development increase, and an unnatural growth or enlargement is often the consequence. In like manner, a diminution or cessation of function or action causes a proportionate non-development,

or even reduction of size, in the organ. Hence a gradual collapse of the lungs ensues, and the chest gradually loses its bow or arch-like form. The ribs become flattened, and fall inward upon the lungs, reducing the lateral diameter of the chest ; the sternum appears protruded, and the sterno-costal cartilaginous articulations flattening, induce that peculiar species of deformity vulgarly known as the "*Pidgeon-breast.*"

Congestion of the lungs must follow : for the heart propelling a larger quantity of blood into them than what their altered state adapts them to receive, it cannot all pass through the vessels, a portion of it must remain : and not only non-elaboration of the blood ensues, from the derangement in the pulmonary organs ; but the badly assimilated blood being sent by the left side of the heart into the general system, induces some of the various disorders in the different parts, which are so constantly observed as forming the complications with Phthisis.

In confirmation of these views, we may refer to the effects universally admitted by the best informed practitioners to result from that most pernicious practice—tight lacing. In this case the stays prevent the expansion of the chest, and the lungs, by the pressure, are kept in a state of unnatural collapse. Pulmonary congestion, with pain and difficulty of breathing, succeed ; and I need hardly say that the most respectable professional authorities attest Consumption as the melancholy and by no means unfrequent consequence. Would that these remarks might be of

any avail in putting a stop to this most pernicious practice. Indeed examples illustrative of the effects of over pressure in inducing inflammation, and subsequent ulceration, even in external parts—a tight shoe, for instance—are so frequent and so well understood, that farther allusion to it seems unnecessary.

Now pressure of the bones upon the lungs, whether brought on by muscular or by nervous debility, or by mechanical constriction of the chest, has a precisely similar effect, as pressure elsewhere; for it is impossible that the effects should differ, merely because of difference in the rise of the parts compressed. The results of long-continued pressure are the same, whatever the nature of the parts of the body exposed to its influence may be.

That one of the effects of pressure upon the lungs, is difficulty of breathing—a constant and harassing attendant upon Consumption, and concerning the cause of which medical writers entertain such various and conflicting opinions,—I have completely satisfied myself, by a careful examination of the state of the chest in a great number of persons, all suffering more or less, apparently from consumptive symptoms, in all of whom the laborious respiration evidently originated in a manifest impediment, or constriction, confined seemingly to one spot under the middle third of the breast bone; the continued operation of this laborious breathing causing the shoulders to be so much drawn forwards as to induce a considerable depression of the breast bone, at the same time exciting considerable pain in the chest.

When this deranged state of the bony case and internal structure has been once established, a still more impeded action of the pulmonary organs is induced. The air, which, previous to the congestion, passed freely through the bronchial tubes into the air cells, can now pass only through those which remain free from or unaffected by inflammation. Increased duties are consequently, thrown on these cells. The delicate secretion which is necessary to keep the cells and tubes in a state adapted to their duties, becomes more copious, producing *cough*; at first slight and hardly noticed, but as the subacute inflammatory action, caused by the pressure already noticed, extends, and the cells become more clogged in consequence, the cough becomes more urgent, more severe, and more frequent, to throw off the accumulated mucus, which is daily more copiously secreted to preserve the proper lubrication of the tubes and cells, that these delicate tissues may not be lacerated or injured by the convulsive fits of coughing excited by this increased quantity of mucus.

When the cough has continued for a short time, irritation of a distressing kind spreads from the lungs upwards, along the mucous lining, to the larynx. This is attended with a peculiar irritating or tickling sensation, which arises from an elongation of the uvula. The irritation produced by the uvula on the posterior part of the tongue, is communicated by *continuous* sympathy to the stomach; and exciting this organ, causes constant nausea and vomiting; impairing the digestive functions of this most im-

portant organ, by the debilitating effects upon the sympathetic nerve.

The combined effects of these morbid actions prevent sleep, or render it disturbed and unrefreshing; and the body, already debilitated, emaciates to a most severe degree. To this state succeed profuse perspiration and colliquative diarrhæa, which soon terminates the sufferings of the patient.

The unnatural pressure upon the respiratory organs, already noticed, not only produces the train of evils just now enumerated, but also evidently induces glandular swelling and ulceration of the lungs, and which, in fact, constitutes what is named tubercle. To sum up, then, my views of the nature of Consumption; I look upon it as a disease purely of debility, either of the muscular or of the nervous system, or of both. The bony structure, in consequence, becoming diseased, and being deprived of the action of the muscles, and of the natural nervous influence, soon becomes altered in form and figure, and presses on the lungs themselves. Hence they become congested and inflamed, inducing difficulty of breathing, with cough; and lastly, glandular enlargement, with subsequent ulceration and suppuration.

ASTHMA.

ASTHMA has usually been regarded as a primary affection, having its seat immediately in the lungs, or

in some part in immediate contact with them. I, however, from long and very careful observation, feel compelled to maintain a different view, and to look upon the pulmonic affection as secondary, the primary cause being a morbid state of the digestive functions. Asthma consists principally in such a state of the lungs as that the egress of the air is prevented; and consequently, it is the expiratory action that is impeded. In some instances, this obstruction appears to depend upon a spasmodic constriction of the bronchial tubes; while in others, it would seem to depend upon an over abundance of a tough and viscid phlegm, or pituitary mucus. Hence Asthma has been divided into the dry or spasmodic, or the moist pituitary, or humoral forms of the disease.

The most distressing effect of Asthma consists in great difficulty of breathing, amounting, in some instances, almost to suffocation. The dyspnoea in some cases is only habitual, in others it is constant; and susceptible, at times, of great increase or aggravation. The patient, during the attack, suffers most intensely; he can scarcely breathe; and the attempts at respiration are attended with a peculiar noise, something like that of a broken-winded horse, which may be heard at a considerable distance. The face becomes flushed, and of a completely livid or dark hue, owing to the blood passing through the lungs unaffected by the air, and in this state passing into the cutaneous vessels of the face.

The duration, as well as the severity, of the attack, varies in different instances. In some cases it may last an hour or two; in others, after an hour or two of extreme severity, the symptoms suffer a slight remission, and in this state continue for a day or two, and then the patient brings up a great quantity of phlegm, which is followed by an immediate abatement of the most distressing symptoms. Such is the outline of an attack of Asthma.

We usually find asthmatic patients suffering from indigestion in some one of its forms. But in most cases there is considerable congestion in one or more of the abdominal viscera. The liver and spleen are frequently affected; and if an asthmatic patient uncover the body, there will be a constricted appearance of the abdomen in some particular part, as if it were drawn in tight by a zone or belt. The seat of this constriction is usually just below the edge of the liver, beneath the ribs. This, in some cases, is so well marked, that the patient seems as if purposely retaining or holding in the breath, and the parts above and below the zone appear protruded and prominent. The pressure thus excited produces congestion, which ultimately spreads to the lungs, and causes the different symptoms which constitute an attack of Asthma.

That this is the case, is evident from the influence of diet in bringing on or keeping off an attack of Asthma. It is well known that many articles of food, and more especially such as distend, or produce a

great degree of flatulence, will bring on in most persons dyspnœa more or less severe; and in the asthmatical a most aggravated fit. Hence asthmatical persons are generally, from necessity, very particular in their diet, experience having fully assured them of the danger and inconvenience resulting from inattention to this particular point.

In asthmatical as well as consumptive patients, the skin seems to have lost its peculiar elasticity, and feels flabby, inactive, and dry. There are many other symptoms occurring in asthma, but as they have essentially no connexion with the disease, I purposely omit them; the object of this little essay being to direct public attention to a *new* and *most successful* plan of treatment, rather than to the series of phenomena which characterise the different modifications of asthma.

TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION.

THE treatment of a disease consists, first, in the adoption of means capable of removing those causes which either have produced, or continue to keep up, those morbid conditions whence the phenomena result. In the second place, we try to remove the morbid conditions so induced, and restore the organ to its normal state. It is useless to attempt the second object, if we neglect the first; because, even

should we succeed, the primary cause continuing to operate, the morbid condition will be speedily re-induced; whereas the primary cause being removed, nature herself will often effect the second object, and save the practitioner any farther efforts.

I think I have satisfactorily proved that tubercles in the lungs originate in debility, attended with pressure, so that the lungs cannot expand, nor the chest dilate. The lungs being thus compressed by the unexpanded chest, the formation of the tubercle is the immediate consequence. Hence it follows, that, if we could devise any means of expanding the lungs and dilating the chest, we should advance a considerable step in the cure of the disease under consideration. In reflecting upon these circumstances, the matter became to me a subject of deep and anxious thought, and many plans suggested themselves to my mind, which, however, upon maturer reflection, or upon trial, proved either altogether impracticable, or incapable of effecting the particular object in view.

At length, the plan presently to be explained presented itself to my view. It would be idle, and indeed no way interesting perhaps, to explain the particular circumstances which led me to put in practice the present most effectual mode of treatment. Suffice to say, that if my views be correct, expanding the lungs, dilating the chest, and restoring tone and vigour to the debilitated and exhausted frame, and more especially to the respiratory apparatus, consti-

tute the chief and most essential parts of the treatment of Consumption.

OF TRACTION IN CONSUMPTION.

To expand the lungs and dilate the chest, is the most effectual mode of commencing the cure of Consumption. Debility, no doubt, is the original cause of the compressed state of the chest; but those who know anything of the effects of tonics, must be aware that their operation is slow and gradual, and consequently even could tonics alone give the necessary vigour to the respiratory apparatus, that a considerable period must necessarily first elapse. Many, indeed, attempt to effect the cure by tonics alone,—for instance, sulphate of copper, sulphate of zinc,—and so far deceive themselves as to attribute the advantages derived, solely to the emetic effects, and not to the tonic influence of these remedies. Such persons, however, seem to forget that whatever the immediate effects, the ultimate action of these medicines is that of a tonic.

But there is another consideration which should make us hesitate, before we entrust the treatment of Consumption wholly to tonic medicines; namely, that they will have to contend, not only with the existing exhaustion of the frame, but still farther with the debilitating effects of a permanently impeded

respiration, the effects of which are daily extending themselves throughout every part of the system. We have, in a former part of this Essay, explained how the blood is purified in the lungs, and that the due inflation of the lungs with atmospheric air is essential to this purification. Now, unless pure blood be circulated, the functions remain inactive; torpor of the organs, and languor and debility of the frame in general, are the result. Hence one of the most effectual means of relieving debility is a healthy and complete exercise of the respiratory organs. Now if this is not completely effected by *traction*, it at all events acts, to a certain and to a very great extent, as an equivalent for more perfect respiration.

Traction.—This is perhaps one of the most simple operations, in appearance at least, which fall within the province of the medical practitioner to perform. Yet it is by no means wholly devoid of danger; and in very weak and exhausted habits, unless very delicately performed, may be attended with fatal consequences—one instance of which has come to my knowledge. Hence, in very feeble and debilitated frames, the practitioner should proceed with caution. Indeed, I have frequently refused to perform the operation upon such subjects, till, by care and regimen, their shattered frame had been restored to some degree of vigour.

The operation consists in the application of a glass of from four to five or six ounces capacity, to some appropriate part of the surface, the atmospheric air

having been previously partially expelled by igniting a few drops of spirit, medicated with a small proportion of some essential oils, and a little camphor. The glass, on the flame becoming extinguished, adheres to the surface, drawing in a quantity of the integuments—somewhat after the manner of a cupping glass. The glass having adhered, is now to be drawn gently away, as if it were the intention to detach it. In this manner the glass may now be moved, still keeping it raised, along the surface in any direction, according to the design or intention of the operator. In Consumption, where the object is the expansion of the lungs, the glass may be placed on the epigastrium, immediately under the ensiform cartilage; and as the operator draws out the glass, the patient should be directed to inhale the air, and, in fact, to expire, so as to perform the different acts of respiration to the fullest and most complete extent. The glass may be subsequently applied to different parts of the epigastrium, or upper abdomen; and then, while drawing it, as it were, away, it may be gradually moved along the length of the abdomen, down to the ilia or pubes.

Many medical persons who have favoured me with their presence, have designated this operation “dry cupping;” and were the term a perfectly new one, I should not quarrel with it, and would willingly adopt it. But as *dry cupping* is applied, in medical phraseology, to a very different operation—different both as to its performance, mode of action, and what

is the most important consideration of all, the efficacy in the cure of consumptive and asthmatic diseases—I must object to a name which is likely to lead into very erroneous opinions, and serious—perhaps hazardous, and even fatal—mistakes.

It has been already shewn, that in Consumption, the chest, under the clavicles, is often compressed, and falls in upon the lungs; “and even at this early period,” says a distinguished writer, “the motions of the upper part of the chest, carefully observed during inspiration, may often be remarked to be unequal; one side of the chest being more fully expanded during inspiration than the other.”* The object, therefore, of *traction*, is to expand the lung and dilate the chest; and if the glass, when fixed, be drawn, as it were, away from the patient towards the operator, and that the patient at the same time breathes, the air will rush in in great abundance, the lungs become fully inflated, the chest dilated, and a tendency to the absorption or obliteration of tubercles, —or tuberculous caverns, should they exist—excited. It is the peculiar mode of operating, which, at the suggestion of an intelligent friend, determined me to name the operation *Traction*.

Many, perhaps, will say that these views are chimerical, and that the relief is more imaginary than real, and that I am too enthusiastic. Be it so: but I may beg to remind both the reader and the invalid,

* Clark on Consumption, &c. p. 28.

that all innovations upon routine and received dogmas, are usually fated to experience opposition, if not abuse. My views may be speculative, they may be chimerical; but how shall we account for the feelings of the patient. For instance: a patient applies to me, with all the symptoms of tuberculous phthisis,—namely, severe cough; insufferable dyspnoea; languor; incapability of the slightest exertion without the risk of bringing on suffocating cough; profuse night-sweats; unusual emaciation; perhaps even diarrhæa; unequal respiration, or irregular movements of the sides of the chest; falling in of the chest under the clavicles;* the resonance dull on percussion; the respiration suppressed, or cavernous; bronchophony; or even that less equivocal sign of a tuberculous cavity, pectoriloquy,—such a patient shall be *brought* to me, (for his great debility shall prevent his coming by his own physical powers), and the first traction shall afford sensible relief, and each succeeding operation shall be attended with increase of benefit; till ultimately—in compliment to scepticism—in about two or three months, the above patient shall be so veiled, so bewildered in enthusiasm, that he shall imagine—or dream—that he breathes freely; that he has lost his cough; that he sleeps throughout the whole night undisturbed by cough, expectoration, or by sweat; that the diarrhæa has left him; that he gains flesh;

* “This form of the chest is more evident particularly in phthisical subjects, in whom the chest usually falls in under the clavicles.” Clarke on Consumption, p. 114.

that his strength is as vigorous and powerful as in the days of his best health; in a word, that instead of pining away in melancholy, and wasting on a bed of sickness, he is in the enjoyment of the best health; pursuing with vigour and alacrity his usual avocations; a comfort to himself; the wonder and delight of his relatives and friends; in a word—himself again, perfectly restored and recovered. If such be the dream or imaginations of enthusiasm, I am not above their enjoyment to the fullest extent; and if *traction* can work or infuse such wonderful notions or imaginations into the minds of consumptive patients, their relatives, and friends, I maintain, it will have conferred a benefit upon consumptive patients, which no other means hitherto devised, not even the wild delirium of narcotics, has ever professed, or even aimed at. But to sum up, upon a matter the importance of which perhaps will excuse the length at which I have treated it; I pledge my reputation to the public, that it will be found fully capable of producing all the beneficial results which I have attributed to it; and unless the lungs have arrived at that state of disorganization or destruction, and the debility be so extreme, as utterly to preclude *all possibility* of recovery, I feel as assured of its efficacy in effecting the cure of Consumption, as I do of my own existence. Therefore I would advise those who either suffer from this pernicious malady, or are threatened with an attack, to lose no time in trying the virtues of a most powerful and effectual remedy.

Of some of the auxiliary means.—I need hardly state here, that the irritation, and also the debility of the frame at large, is not only kept up, but greatly aggravated and increased, by the distressing and hacking cough, and the loss of sleep, which it occasions. Hence the patient, harassed by cough and unrefreshed by sleep, finds himself in the morning totally worn out and exhausted. If the severity of the symptoms be such that it will allow some slight mitigation in consequence of the exhaustion, the patient, thus worn out, falls into a slight slumber, by which his enfeebled frame is somewhat refreshed and invigorated, and is thus enabled to add another to his days of misery. Now it is the business of the practitioner to endeavour to imitate nature, and to give such medicines as are calculated to produce these effects. And this practice is attended with this advantage, that the relief afforded is not the result of harassing and exhausting agents upon the system, but of remedies calculated to allay irritation, and in fact to infuse a little vigour. Narcotics present the most effectual means of effecting our purpose, and the most powerful of this class are morphia and prussic acid.

Morphia is the active narcotic principle of opium separate from the other principles, which, when not positively injurious, at least are of no benefit, and only add to the bulk, if they do not modify the action, of the active principle. Pure morphia, however, from its insolubility, produces no effect, and therefore

is not in the state best adapted for exhibition, or to insure its composing and beneficial effects. Although morphia itself be but little soluble, and consequently so far inactive, many of its salts are very soluble, and comparatively very active. Of the saline preparations, I myself give the preference to the acetate; and even this should generally be rendered still more soluble by the addition of a few drops of acetic acid. Persons who have been nightly harassed by distressing cough, watchfulness, expectoration, &c., by the exhibition of morphia in this way, often pass a comfortable night, comparatively speaking, little troubled by the distressing symptoms, and wake in the morning wonderfully refreshed and invigorated. The relief obtained from agents of this kind, often goes on for a considerable period, and the patient begins to entertain hopes of a speedy recovery; but, alas! this proves but a treacherous calm, after which the storm will break out with increased violence. After some time the system becomes habituated to, and consequently resists the influence of, the narcotic. Larger doses are now necessary, which in their turn become inert; and at last persevering, the patient is ultimately brought into the condition so feelingly described in the "Confessions of an Opium Eater." Assisted by traction, however, these results seldom or never ensue; because the lungs and chest being gradually brought to a natural and healthy state, the cough and irritation which depended upon the morbid condition, are proportionably relieved; so that

the influence of the narcotic gradually becoming less necessary, both the doses may be reduced, and the intervals between their administration gradually extended, till, ultimately, their exhibition becomes wholly unnecessary.

Prussic Acid.—This is next in importance. Indeed, sometimes morphia will not agree, nor indeed opium in any form; in such cases prussic acid will afford the necessary relief. It has almost as much efficacy as morphia in relieving the distressing symptoms; and, in fact, in some constitutions, will agree and prove active, when morphia, from peculiar idiosyncrasy, would prove injurious instead of beneficial. But in all cases, the practitioner must adapt the individuals of his class of curative agents, to the circumstances and constitution of his patient, varying them as circumstances require. When either of the above are inadmissible, or fail, other narcotics, as hyoscyamus, conium, &c., must be tried; but the consideration of such matters would lead into details far exceeding the limits and particular object of this essay. Similar considerations induce me to avoid entering upon the doses, or the modes of adapting them to fulfil particular indications by combination with other agents. To the practitioner, such details, upon a limited scale, would be useless; and to the general reader they might prove injurious, by leading him to suppose that no nicety of adaptation and adjustment were necessary in the administration of powerful remedies.

OF TONICS.

Having already shewn that debility is a principal agent in bringing on a tuberculous condition of the lungs, with all its concomitants, purulent expectoration, ulceration, and cavities; the invigoration of the system naturally presents itself as a principal, and indeed essential, feature in the treatment. The only known methods of restoring an exhausted frame, is the appropriate regulation of diet, air, and exercise, and the due administration of Tonics. Now tonic medicines, as may be inferred from their name, are those which restore tone to the fibre, and enable the frame to perform its functions with the natural and healthy degree of vigour. But were we to attempt the administration of Tonics in those cases of extreme debility to which we sometimes see consumptive persons reduced, we should terminate existence sooner than restore the natural strength. It is not, therefore, till after the patient has been, to a certain extent, restored, that we can attempt the use of tonics with any prospect of advantage. But when the patient, by the cautious use of *traction*, aided by sedatives, has been a little invigorated, we may then hope, by the judicious use of tonics, to bring back the respiratory organs to their due tone, and their functions to a healthy exercise.

Tonics may be divided in two classes; divisions founded on the kingdoms from which they are derived; these

are the mineral and the vegetable kingdoms. The first furnishes us with copper, zinc, steel, and arsenic; the latter with bark, and the other vegetable bitters.

Sulphate of Copper.—This salt has been recommended in Phthisis, and has been much used by those who consider emetics beneficial. When the patient seems clogged up with mucus, phlegm, or tuberculous matter, an emetic often proves beneficial, causes the copious expectoration of the phlegm, and with considerable relief. For this purpose I have used, and indeed prefer, the sulphate of copper; first, because the dose is comparatively small, and the action immediate, nor followed by that debility and exhaustion consequent upon the vomiting excited by ipecacuanha and tartar emetic. The two latter always leave a nausea behind which produces great languor and debility, from which the patient does not recover. In order to insure the full benefits of vomiting, it should be quick and short in duration, and unattended by nausea. The mode of giving the emetic is therefore of some consequence. The patient, before swallowing the dose, should take a tolerably large draught, from a pint to a pint and a half, of warm water, and if the emetic be then swallowed, its action will be almost instantaneous, and unattended by nausea. When given as a mere tonic, the dose of course must be proportionately reduced.

Sulphate of Zinc.—This salt has also been given with a view to its emetic effects, but I consider that it is better adapted to the purposes of a pure or mere

tonic. With this view, a grain or so may be given two or three times in the day, and I consider the form of powder or solution much preferable to any other mode of giving it.

Steel.—The preparations of iron furnish us with very powerful tonics. The sulphate of iron is a very excellent preparation, and forms the basis of Griffith's mixture, so much extolled in the night-sweats of hectic fever. To secure its fullest effects, it should be prepared only as required, because it so readily undergoes changes, that its efficacy soon becomes impaired, or totally destroyed. For similar reasons it should be dissolved in distilled water, and wholly free from atmospheric air. In Griffith's mixture, noticed above, the sulphate is converted into the carbonate of iron; but the virtues of this also are completely destroyed by the access of atmospheric air, and hence Griffith's mixture should only be prepared at the moment of use.

The difficulty of having the sulphate or the carbonate administered in their most efficient state, induced practitioners to rely upon the muriate of iron as not so liable to the objections just stated. The muriated tincture of iron is an excellent tonic, and capable of answering almost every purpose in the administration of iron. The cases to which iron seems best adapted are leucophlegmatic exsanguineous habits, and at the same time suffering from chlorosis. I have likewise found a combination of sulphate of zinc and sulphate of iron, in the proportion of from a quarter

to half a grain of each, mixed with a twelfth part of a grain of acetate of morphia, a most valuable and effective combination.

Arsenic.—The arsenite of potass, as is well known, is a very powerful tonic, and capable of putting a stop to ague, when all other means have failed. Its efficacy in agues would naturally justify the expectation of a powerful action in hectic fever, and I tried it in consumptive cases with decided benefit. But a remedy of such powers, and one possessed of such virulence, as a poison, should not be used except under professional direction. As its use in Consumption is, I believe, a complete novelty, I merely beg to call the attention of the profession to it, leaving the details and mode of administration entirely to their own judgment, to be conducted as the particular circumstances of the case may point out.

Bark.—It was at one time supposed that bark was a specific for Consumption, as well as many other and opposite affections. Various preparations of this medicine, and various modes of administering them, were adopted by practitioners. Of these the most important are the decoction, the infusion, and the tincture. In cases attended with so much fever as Consumption generally is, it is evident that the tincture presents a very ineligible form for administration; as so much spirits of wine as would contain the necessary dose, would entail serious consequences on the system. In decoction and infusion the bulk is often objectionable; add to which, that in all such

formulae the active principle is administered with others which, when not positively injurious, are inert, and, by increasing the bulk, prove to such extent injurious. Hence practitioners will generally give a preference to the active principle itself of the bark, namely *quinine*.

Sulphate of Quinine.—As vegetable chemistry succeeded in eliciting morphia from opium, so has it also in eliciting quinine from cinchona or Peruvian bark. But quinine, like morphia, is insoluble under ordinary circumstances, and therefore in its insolated state unsuited to accomplish the objects of the prescriber. But the salts of quina are most of them very soluble, and of this description is its combination with sulphuric acid. Hence the sulphate of quina is one of the most powerful and efficient of the class of vegetable tonics. As a few grains of sulphate of quina are equivalent in virtue to an ounce of powdered bark, it is evident that we can give, in a small bulk, a large and active dose of the tonic. Perhaps no tonic acts so powerfully in restoring tone and energy to the muscular fibre; and on that account will prove a highly valuable tonic in phthisis, in which the muscular energy seems nearly or almost totally destroyed. However, the practitioner must proceed cautiously, and not attempt to act upon an over exhausted frame by too vigorous remedies, the action of which it is not in a condition to endure with impunity.

Bitters and other Tonics.—When Pthisis has

made considerable advances, we cannot proceed to the more active means of relief; and therefore, in such cases, we must prepare the system by more gentle means. In a case of long starvation and exhaustion we should not think of giving the famished individual roast beef and port wine; such a plan would assuredly overpower and kill the patient. We begin with the milder and less nutritive aliments, giving them sparingly, till the powers of the system are adequate to the more stimulating and nutritive diet. So in the advanced stages of Consumption, the more powerful tonics would have similar results, and therefore we should prepare the system with the milder. Of this description are Sarsaparilla, the Iceland and the Irish moss. These, in cases of great debility, should be given at first; and when the frame has been in some degree invigorated, then the more active tonics and bitters may be substituted with advantage.

Regimen.—Under this I include the regulation of the animal and natural functions, and diet, air, and exercise. But here, however, I must be brief, because, as I have already stated, this is not to be considered as a treatise, but rather a mode of calling attention to a new and effectual mode of curing Consumption. And, first, the digestive functions must be closely attended to, and any irregularities corrected. Acidity is a very frequent attendant upon Consumption, and should be obviated by the use of antacids as magnesia, potass, &c. and other correctives. In like manner a due or rather daily action of the bowels should be

promoted by mild aperients; but should diarrhæa prevail, this should be checked and kept within bounds; as, if not moderated, in very weak frames it may cause sudden death.

Skin.—The skin is usually in a dry and torpid state, and seems to have lost its usual elasticity. Thus it seems flabby and flaccid, somewhat like a dry bladder upon the mouth of a jar. As the system, however, recovers its tone, the skin will gradually resume its healthy state, and which may be promoted by the warm bath, ablutions, and sufficient clothing.

Diet should be mild, light, nutritive, and as strengthening as the patient's powers and digestion will permit. Moderate exercise and dry atmosphere will contribute much to attaining all the objects above specified. But upon these questions I feel unwilling to enter more at length than is barely necessary to bring to our aid all the auxiliaries requisite to insure to the fullest extent the advantages to be derived from the use of *traction* in the cure of Pulmonary Consumption.

Of Local Application.—Considering, as I do, Consumption purely a disease of debility, of course I do not feel it necessary to observe upon depletives, as blood-letting, leeching, cupping, blistering, &c. It may be urged that should inflammatory action arise, it will require depletive measures, however great the debility. This undoubtedly would be the case, were it not that I find *traction*, as previously

described, as effectual, perhaps even more so, in relieving the various forms of pulmonary inflammation, as bleeding. And perhaps this may be one cause of its very great efficacy in the cure of tubercle; it relieves the pulmonary congestion or inflammation, well known to occupy a portion of the healthy lung surrounding the tuberculous mass. Consequently I have not found it necessary to resort even to blisters. However, I have used a small quantity of an ointment prepared by rubbing a portion of deuto-ioduret of mercury, tartar emetic, and acetate of morphia, together with a sufficient quantity of lard, so as to form an ointment. A small portion of this applied to the inferior angle of the scapula, and gently rubbed in with a soft sponge or linen rag, morning and evening, till it cause a slight efflorescence, is of singular benefit. When there is a fixed pain, it is usually of a nervous character, and generally yields to an opium plaster.

Complications.—To enumerate all perhaps would be to enumerate a large proportion of ordinary diseases, I shall, therefore, confine myself to those which seem to be more essentially connected with Consumption, whether they be regarded as either the cause or the effect. Now these are ulceration of the air passages, and the parts leading to them. Thus we often find ulcerations of the uvula, occasionally of the epiglottis, very frequently of the larynx, and almost always of some portions to a greater or less extent of the trachea. I am disposed to look upon these ulcerations as the primary of the series of

effects in the Consumptive phenomena. Be this, however, as it may, I have derived the greatest advantage from attending to and relieving this ulcerated condition. Nothing is more effectual for this purpose than lunar caustic to the uvula and a solution of sulphate of zinc or copper to the other parts, the mode of applying which requires no notice from me in this place.

Abdominal Plethora.—This is a most important complication ; whether we regard abdominal plethora with some as an important agent in the production of Phthisis, or with others as a mere effect or accompaniment. My own view is, that it results from general debility, and its consequence, unequal pressure upon the abdominal contents. Nothing, however, tends more to undermine the general system. It is almost invariably an attendant upon one or other of the stages of Consumption ; and its injurious effects upon the pulmonary system soon become apparent. When the muscular power has been completely invaded by the prevailing debility, the action necessary to the abdominal functions ceases, or becomes very much diminished. Cessation of expansion follows as the natural consequence. The external soft parietes therefore give way and fall in, and press upon the peritoneum. This membrane, yielding to the superincumbent weight, the parts within the cavity of the abdomen suffer a still greater degree of pressure. The result of this unnatural pressure is *congestion* ; caused by the obstruction offered to the free circula-

tion of the blood through the different branches of the arterial system within the abdominal cavity: hence plethora of the parts so pressed—the liver, spleen, &c. When we bear in mind, that on the free circulation of blood through every part, depends its healthy state and action, we cannot wonder that, when the circulation of this fluid through the abdominal aorta, and its numerous ramifications, has been checked, the debility should, in consequence, be materially increased. This is made evident in the severe diarrhæa which generally prevails in the last stages of Consumption.

Another very serious and important effect of this obstruction is, that the blood propelled from the heart, obstructed in its progress and natural direction, takes an unnatural course, and an unusual accumulation of blood takes place in the lungs, already seriously involved in the prevailing debility. Hence originates severe hæmoptysis, hæmatemesis, and other hæmorrhagies, so well known as frequent attendants upon Consumption. — *Traction*, by relieving the unnatural pressure on the abdominal viscera, causes greater freedom of motion, removes the barriers to the due transmission of the blood through the different vessels, and allows a greater freedom of circulation generally. The congestive tumefactions gradually diminish; the organs approach more nearly to their natural state and dimensions; and thus the impediments to the motions, especially the descent of the diaphragm, being removed, respiration be-

comes, comparatively, more easy and free; and nature, ever provident and attentive, resumes her accustomed duties.

Ulceration of the Intestines.—The mucous membrane of the intestines is very often ulcerated in different portions of its extent. This is so constant in Consumption, that they are regarded as cause and effect, and by many are believed to be the cause of the colliquative and debilitating diarrhæa which so generally prevails towards the latter end of Consumption. The diarrhæa which prevails towards this period, must be moderated and kept in check, otherwise it will soon bring the patient to an end, notwithstanding the sedulous application of the best devised means for the relief of the other symptoms. It need hardly be stated, that attention to the state of the bowels, the skin, and the digestive functions in general, embrace objects of primary importance in the treatment of all diseases in general, and more especially in those of a consumptive character; but to enter upon these matters would necessarily involve details wholly foreign to the objects of this little treatise.

TREATMENT OF ASTHMA.

Upon the treatment of Asthma I must be very brief; for I have already stated much, when treating of Consumption, which will equally apply to Asthma.

Thus, one of the most influential and effectual methods of relief from the distress of Asthma presents itself in *Traction*, which I shall now, therefore, proceed to consider.

Traction.—I have already stated that I look upon Asthma as a disease primarily of the digestive system, and that the secondary effect upon the lungs is disordered *expiration*. Hence the air cannot be expelled from the lungs, and, consequently, fresh air cannot obtain an ingress because of the mechanical opposition or resistance offered by the air already occupying the pulmonary tubes and cells. Hence the blood, circulating through the pulmonary vessels, is exposed to the action of vitiated air, and returns in an impure state to be circulated, by the left side of the heart, throughout the body. We can thus understand how all the functions become languid, the organs torpid, dyspnœa, and a sense of suffocation, with livid condition of the face and lips, succeed. These are all relieved by traction. The application of traction relieves the abdominal congestion, and allows the enlargement of the chest, and, consequently, the expansion of the lungs. Fresh air rushes in, the blood is purified, and the patient experiences all the consequent relief. He breathes more freely, and expresses himself as feeling much lighter, and greatly relieved. These are really the expressions of the patients themselves. In order to derive all possible advantage, the operation should be performed

daily for two or three weeks, and then such relief will be obtained that patients who could not walk a dozen yards in the open air, will now walk as many miles with little or no inconvenience; facts which it has repeatedly fallen to me to see fully verified. I therefore take upon myself to declare *traction* one of the most effectual methods ever devised for the relief of Asthma; and I have no hesitation in pledging my reputation that it will prove so far one of the most valuable discoveries of modern medicine.

Auxiliary Treatment.—Although I believe traction capable of fully effecting the cure of Asthma, yet it is always advisable to allay all morbid symptoms by the aid of other and appropriate remedies. There is usually present a considerable degree of irritation. This should be allayed by the use of acetate of morphia, and prussic acid, in doses suited to the constitution of the patient, and the urgency of the symptoms. Acidity of the “*primæ viæ*” likewise is a very common and very distressing attendant; to remove this, and by its gentle stimulus to give tone to the stomach, I use suitable doses of ammonia or carbonate of soda in conjunction with Brandish’s solution of potassa, and with the happiest effects. Since my residence in London, I have had under my care numerous asthmatic patients, most of whom I have cured; and to all, without a single exception, I have afforded the most decided relief. With such simple, and withal such effectual, means at their com-

mand, who will longer endure the distressing suffocation (or throttling) so constantly affecting the victims of Asthma.

The observations upon the due regulation of the natural and the animal functions, under the head of Phthisis, apply equally in the present case ; and need not therefore be repeated. These should be carefully watched, especially the state of the bowels and the digestion : and any torpor of the one or irregularity of the other immediately corrected, by the use of appropriate remedies. As instances of the great success which has attended my practice in these complaints, I beg to submit the following Cases, most of which have kindly permitted me to refer to them, for confirmation of the particulars, not only in gratitude, but as a duty to those of the public who either now are, or hereafter may be, similarly affected. They have therefore kindly consented to answer most fully and unequivocally any inquiries ; and for which condescension I take this method of expressing my gratitude, and returning my most sincere thanks.

CASES.

THE following Cases have been selected, chiefly on account of their severity, and the expressed opinion of some of the most eminent of the faculty, as to the utter hopelessness of any known mode of treatment proving of avail. The respectability of the parties, and their permission of reference, will prove an ample guarantee for accuracy and fidelity of detail.

CASE I.

Consumption. — MR. HEDLEY, aged about 24, residing at No. 71, Lord Street, Liverpool, consulted me while I was residing at that place. His statement was to the following effect: "I have been consulting Mr. ———, of Chelsea, and Dr. ———, of ——— Square, London ;* they advised my return

* I should be glad did propriety allow of my mentioning the names of these respectable gentlemen ; not from any invidious motive, but merely because the authority of their names would afford a convincing proof that the condition of the patient has not been overdrawn.

home, as it was impossible that the medical art could prove of any avail in rescuing me from my impending fate." On his application to me, he was emaciated to an extreme degree; in appearance almost a skeleton; his countenance pale; tongue red and furred; pulse 110; skin hot, hectic, with profuse night sweats; constant nausea; cough, which brought on vomiting; copious expectoration of purulent matter. The cough and night sweats so severe as to deprive him completely of rest at night, so that in the morning he felt quite exhausted, and unable to walk from debility.

On examination, the chest seemed flattened; the abdominal muscles rigid, and drawn tightly over the peritoneum, which felt like a piece of hard leather; the skin parched, with that peculiar appearance known as the "goose skin!" The muscles of the other parts of the body loose, flabby, and relaxed.

On applying Traction, this gentleman stated that he felt almost instantaneous relief. He continued to submit to this simple operation for about six weeks. The medical treatment consisted in means for allaying nausea, viz., first cleaning out the stomach with warm water, followed immediately afterwards by small doses of alkaline medicine. During the day he took small doses of sulphate of zinc; and the cough was soothed by a mixture, consisting principally of prussic acid and morphia. In seven weeks this gentleman was able to leave Liverpool for the Isle of Mann, where he gradually recovered his strength; and his health is now, at this moment, (October, 1842), perfectly restored.

CASE II.

Consumption.—Mr. J. HUTCHINSON, Butler to the Hon. T. O. Poulett, Bolton Hall, Bedall, states : —“ I have been unwell four months, and have had the first advice in my neighbourhood, without the slightest relief. Notwithstanding a variety of treatment, I am getting much worse, and more exhausted; and fear I shall be unable to continue in my situation.” Upon examination, in the presence of three medical gentlemen, I found that, from debility, the muscular system had completely lost its tone: the ribs pressed upon the lungs, producing a sense of weight and tightness across the chest, of that peculiar character which generally attends Plethora.

Upon applying Traction, the weight was completely removed, and the patient's feelings greatly relieved—but perhaps the following extract from a letter he addressed to me from Bedall, will state more, and more satisfactorily; than anything I could adduce in proof of this gentleman's own sense of his improvement.

Bolton Hall, Dec 20, 1842.

HON. SIR,—I take the liberty to inform you that you are welcome to make use of my name in any shape whatever you think proper. I am happy to say that I still continue well.

Your most humble and obedient servant,

J. HUTCHINSON.

Butler to the Hon. T. O. Poulett,
Bolton Hall, Bedall.

D. Cronin, Esq.
6 Craven Street, London.

CASE III.

Consumption. — Mr. A. CARTWRIGHT, of the Sloop and Navigation Office, Customs, consulted me, and gave the following account:—"I am so weak from long-continued illness that I was unable to walk here, and was forced to ride in a carriage. The usual medical attendant of my family some time since pronounced me incurable; on which account, as I have heard much of you, I wish to try your peculiar treatment." This gentleman appeared certainly in the last stage of disease; but a detail of symptoms would only be a recapitulation of what has been already stated upon many former occasions. Upon the application of *Traction*, he experienced so much relief, that he was able to walk from my house. The following letter, which appeared in the Sun, and which the patient addressed to the Editor, will perhaps speak more for this plan of treatment than any eulogium of mine could possibly do.

SIR,—Being a subscriber to your valuable paper, you will perhaps excuse my troubling you, but I think it only due to the skill of Mr. Cronin, that some publicity should be given, for the benefit of the community, to his method of cure in cases of Consumption, Asthma, &c.

I had been nine months under a medical man with confirmed Consumption, and given over by him as incurable. I have now been five weeks under Mr. Cronin, and am not like the same person, as my health and strength are rapidly returning.

If you can find room for this in your next publication, I think it will be conferring a benefit on those similarly afflicted.—I remain, your most obedient servant,

ADOLPHUS CARTWRIGHT.

Navigation and Sloop Office, Customs;
Nov. 21st.

CASE IV.

Consumption. — Mr. ARGENT, Three Falcon Court, Fleet street, having been under the care of four different medical gentlemen of the highest eminence, and pronounced by them completely incurable, was recommended to my treatment as a last resource. I cannot do better here than leave the description, and the result, to his own letter, addressed to the Editor of the Sunday Times.

To the Editor of the Sunday Times.

SIR,—Having seen in your last week's publication a long correspondence between Mr. Cronin and Dr. Venables, on the efficacy of TRACTION—Mr. Cronin's new and successful treatment of Consumption,—I beg to support Dr. Venables' opinion of the value of this gentleman's discovery by my own case. I had been eleven months under several highly talented medical men, but could obtain no relief, and was imagined by my friends to be fast sinking to the grave. I have now been one month only under Mr. Cronin, and joyful to relate, am quite a different person. Thinking it a duty on my part to give publicity to this gentleman's new treatment of this complaint, I have adopted, through your kindness, this method of returning my sincere thanks to him, should it come under his notice; and as a means of making the thousands who are labouring under this malady acquainted with means whereby they may once more be restored to health and vigour.—I am your obedient servant,

S. ARGENT,

Nephew to Mr. I. Argent, Rainbow Tavern, Fleet Street.—
Three Falcon-court, 145, Fleet Street,
January 17, 1843.

CASE V.

Consumption. — Mrs. YOUNG, 87, Dean street, Soho, aged 36, had been ill for a considerable time

during which she consulted several very eminent physicians in London, and who, she said, all pronounced her incurable.—Her statement was to the following effect. “I was so severely affected with spitting of blood, that I was obliged to leave Brighton, where I was resident; it being urged that the keen air of the place would soon put a period to my life. On my arrival in London, I consulted several very eminent physicians, who all declared it impossible to afford me any effectual relief.” On her applying to me, I immediately applied Traction, which afforded instantaneous relief. She also took small doses of zinc and steel, with an anodyne, to soothe the cough. This plan, with Traction, was persevered in for some time; and she speedily recovered, and so continues up to the present moment.

I could give some hundred instances of a similar description; but I think the cases already adduced quite sufficient to establish, incontestably, the efficacy of Traction in Consumption. I shall now proceed to give a few instances of the benefit of Traction in Asthma.

CASE VI.

Asthma.— ——— MICHELL, Esq., during the last two-and-twenty years holding a highly responsible situation in Messrs. Cox and Greenwood’s Office, Craig’s Court, Charing Cross, states: “I have been suffering from Asthma for the last fourteen years.

At times I feel so unwell, that I fear to stir ; and this morning I suffered so severely, that I had to rest three times during the walk from my own house to the packet at Vauxhall Bridge. I have had the first advice, but am sorry to say, that as yet I have obtained no relief whatever ; and being determined to have it if possible, have decided on giving your method a trial." Traction afforded this gentleman immediate relief. He could breathe more freely, and, as he expressed it, felt lighter. I attended him to the street door, where, on getting into the air, he found that he could, for the first time for many years, thoroughly inflate his lungs. In a fortnight the application, with suitable medicine, completely relieved this gentleman ; and he is now—January 1843—quite well.

CASE VII.

Asthma.—M. M. G. DOWLING, Esq., Chief Commissioner of Police, Liverpool, consulted me for a severe asthmatic affection, with which he had been severely afflicted for many years. His report is here annexed :—"I have availed myself of the first advice in both London and Liverpool. I am at present under Dr. ———, the Homœopathist ; but as yet I have derived not the slightest benefit, nor have I obtained even the slightest relief. My sufferings are occasionally most dreadful, indeed I may say almost intolerable. I have frequently to stop and rest three or four times in the length of a short street." Traction immediately relieved the difficulty of breathing ; and this operation, continued daily for

three or four weeks, in conjunction with proper medicine, perfectly cured this gentleman; and he is now—the first time for many years—in the active performance of his duties.

CASE VIII.

Mr. OSBORNE, King's Mews, King's Road, says: "I have been suffering intensely from Asthma for the last twelve years. As I have been unable to obtain any relief from the numbers I have applied to, I have been advised, as a last resource, to consult you." In the presence of Mr. Hutchinson, Surgeon, of Farringdon Street, I performed the operation of Traction upon this gentleman, which afforded instantaneous relief. The daily, or nearly daily, repetition of the operation for about six weeks, with the observance of the proper regimen, produced such an alteration in the health and appearance of this patient, that Mr. Sewell, the celebrated Veterinary Surgeon of Pimlico, though intimately connected with him, declared "he scarcely knew him, he looked so well." The wonderful improvement thus so speedily and so easily obtained, induced Mr. Sewell, who himself is a severe sufferer, to try the application; and this gentleman is now under treatment, and materially improved.

CASE IX.

Asthma.—SAMUEL SMITH, Esq., aged 72, Grays Inn Square, says: "I have been unwell for three years: occasionally my Asthma abates, or even leaves me; but I am a great sufferer, not only from the

repetition, but also from the intense severity, of the attacks. I have had the advice of some of the leading members of your profession, and, as you yourself must perceive, I have been in no degree benefited." Traction being applied, immediately afforded this gentleman, not only decided, but the most substantial relief; so that in six days he declared himself satisfied of the complete cure of his Asthma. However, as he suffered from a cough, I recommended a little longer perseverance; and I am gratified to say, that he is now thoroughly well, and in the enjoyment of very good health.

I could detail a great number of similar instances; but enough, and indeed as much as the limits of this Essay will permit, has been adduced to prove the superiority of this method. The suffering endured from Asthma, and the instantaneous relief it affords, would be alone, independent of all other considerations, sufficient to recommend it to all suffering, either occasionally or permanently, from the severity of Asthma.

POSTSCRIPT.

SEVERAL attempts having been made to decry my discovery for the cure of Consumption and Asthma; and it having been asserted and stated, even to Mr. Michell, of Messrs. Cox and Greenwood's office, Craig's Court, that Dr. Venables had tried my plan and found it inert, I was induced to publish a correspondence between myself and that gentleman upon the subject, and which I have republished in this Essay. It appears that this gave great offence to the *Lancet*; which in the full indulgence of its general splenetic and malevolent disposition, most unjustly, and I now assert falsely, insinuated—nay, even asserted—that this correspondence, so far from being genuine, was merely “a preconcerted scheme.” Had the Editor published my reply, explaining the facts, and referring him to Mr. Michell, I should have considered it quite unnecessary to notice the matter any farther. But the *Lancet*, in merely acknowledging the receipt of my letters, invariably availed itself of that opportunity to indulge in a series of coarse, vulgar, and inveterate invectives, at the same

time studiously avoiding all allusion to the explanatory parts of my letter. This at least is my impression: but in order that the public may form their own judgment of the fairness of the criticisms in the *Lancet*, I subjoin my letters, and the replies of this immaculate journal.

To the Editor of the Times.

6, Craven Street, Strand, Dec. 29, 1842.

SIR,—As all attempts at improvement, either in the Arts or Sciences, are doomed to experience a dogmatical resistance, it is not to be wondered at that “Traction” should have been doomed to a similar fate. However, in order to silence mere dogmatism, I beg to submit to you the accompanying correspondence, upon which I may observe that no one who is acquainted with Dr. Venables; the care and attention with which he investigates diseases; and the caution with which he draws his conclusions, but will allow that the subjoined opinion, coming from such a source, is at least deserving public attention. Understanding he had expressed himself in terms unfavourable to my new method of treating Consumption and Asthma, I wrote to him, and beg to enclose my letter and his reply.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

D. CRONIN.

6, Craven Street, Strand, Dec. 24, 1842.

SIR,—I was rather surprised to hear from one or two persons that, on being applied to, to know the results of your experiments upon Traction, you stated “that upon trial you had not found it to answer.”

This statement is so much at variance with what you have expressed to me privately, that I am at a loss to reconcile it. If not too much trouble, perhaps you would favour me with some explanation, and allow me to make use of the same.

I remain, &c.,

To R. Venables, Esq., M.D.

D. CRONIN.

5, St. Vincent Place, City Road, Dec. 26, 1842.

SIR,—I am as much surprised as yourself at the statement imputed to me, relative to your new method of treating Consumption and Asthma by “Traction;” and in reply, beg to assure you that no person has made any inquiry of me relative to the experiments instituted by me with the view of estimating the value and efficacy of this new mode of practice. The most satisfactory refutation, perhaps, which I can offer of the statement attributed to me, “that upon trial I had not found it to answer,” is, that I have availed myself of every opportunity which has presented to adopt this mode of treatment in pulmonary cases, both in my private practice, and in my capacity of physician to an extensive public institution; and I feel so far satisfied of its efficacy, that I shall continue to adopt it upon every proper occasion, so long as it continues to benefit to the extent it has hitherto done. I consider my experience as yet rather too limited to enable me to state more precisely the extent of its applicability, or the particular circumstances to which it is most suited; but this I can confidently assert, that, in almost all instances, it has afforded immediate relief, and upon many occasions has completely superseded the necessity of bleeding. I may observe to you farther, that a medical friend, upon whom I tried it, experienced in his own person the most decided benefit, in a pulmonary affection of a chronic nature, of upwards of three years’ standing; and, in consequence, he has adopted it upon several occasions in his own practice, and, as he assures me, with the most marked benefit. I have, therefore, no hesitation in expressing to you my thorough conviction that ultimately it will be found a most valuable and powerful auxiliary in the treatment, not only of pulmonary affections, but also in those of other organs, different both in their structure and functions. With respect to your use of this letter to refute the statement imputed to me, I have only to say that, candour and truth being my chief object, I can have no objection to any fair or legitimate use being made of this communication.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT VENABLES.

The above correspondence brought forth the following notice in the *Lancet* of January 7th.

"An Old Observer.—The correspondence was evidently the result of a preconcerted scheme, with so little even of ingenuity to conceal the fact, that it will doubtless yield as little profit to Dr. Cronin, as honour to Dr. Venables. If 'Traction' be derived from *traho*, to *draw*, the term will probably prove a misnomer."

Although thoroughly convinced that "*An Old Observer*" was a fictitious character, yet I sent the following letter to the Editor of the *Lancet*.

To the Editor of the Lancet.

6, Craven Street, Strand, Jan. 14, 1843.

SIR,—My attention has just been called to a notice in your *Journal* of the 7th inst., and purporting to be a reply to "*An Old Observer*." It is there insinuated that Dr. Venables and myself concocted a plan of notoriety, which would ultimately prove "*neither lucrative to me, nor honourable to him*." In justice, however, I have no doubt you will publish this explanation.—A patient of mine, Mr. Michell, in the Artillery Office at Messrs. Cox and Greenwood's, Charing Cross, and who is well acquainted with Dr. V., calling on me, informed me that a lady had applied to him to enquire what benefit he had derived from my professional attention, at the same time stating that she had been enquiring of Dr. Venables, at the London Dispensary, the result of his experiments upon the method I adopt—and that she was informed there the Dr. had not found it answer his expectations. This being so much at variance with what Dr. V. had expressed at my house, both to myself and to several medical gentlemen—Dr. Sims, of Chelsea; Dr. Starling, Bishop Stortford; Mr. Blanch, North Brixton; Mr. Fant; Mr. Peddic, assistant surgeon on board the *Victory*, at Portsmouth; and several others—that I felt quite at a loss to reconcile this statement with his usual straightforwardness. I therefore wrote to Dr. V. for an explanation, which produced the correspondence criticised in your *Journal*. As for Dr. V., I hardly think his reputation stands in need of such a prop; the zeal he has displayed

in his profession ; his standing amongst its members ; his contributions to its advancement, both as a science and an art—and which the pages of your *own Journal* in numerous instances attest—ought to have shielded him at least from any such unworthy imputations.

With respect to your predictions relative to myself, I have no doubt you will feel thoroughly rejoiced to hear they have proved totally unfounded. The applications to me are daily on the increase ; and if you will favour me with your company to breakfast any morning, (*Sunday excepted*) at 9 o'clock, I promise you a cup of good tea or coffee, and the etceteras ; when you shall have an opportunity of witnessing one of my usual morning levees, and, at the same time, of looking into my fee-book, and if that does not convince you of the NON-FULFILMENT of your prediction, I must leave you to the undisturbed enjoyment of your natural incredulity and perverseness.

I remain, dear Sir, your much obliged,

D. CRONIN.

The Lancet, instead of publishing my exculpation ; instead of making inquiry into the facts ; with its usual illiberality merely comments upon some frivolous passages, and conceals, or at least leaves totally unnoticed, those parts which would have convicted it of a determined and preconcerted scheme to indulge in wanton invective. What is the notice of the Lancet?

“ We have received a letter signed D. Cronin, Craven Street, Strand, in which the writer, referring to a notice of a correspondent in THE LANCET of the 7th inst., intimates that the correspondence between himself and Dr. Venables, which had recently been advertised in the newspapers, relating to Dr. Cronin's treatment of Phthisis by means of something called “Traction,” was *bonâ fide* correspondence, and not got up in the usual way of quacks ; at the same time referring to the professional standing and reputation, and the medical zeal and scientific productions, of Dr. Vena-

bles, as proofs that Dr. V. was not likely to make one of a party in any unworthy scheme relating to the advertisement in question. Dr. Cronin intimates, in conclusion, that so far from the advertisement being 'as little lucrative to him as honourable to Dr. Venables,' he is really doing what we believe plain tradesmen would call 'a great stroke of business;' and he invites us to 'witness one of his morning levees,' and inspect his 'fee-book' in evidence of the fact. We observe that the last advertisement of this worthy gentleman is composed of a correspondence with a phthisical waiter at the *Cock Tavern*, in Fleet Street. Dr. Venables has got into good company. We still adhere to the opinion expressed on the 7th inst."—*Lancet*, Jan. 28, 1843.

Upon the gross perversion and illiberality of the above, it is quite unnecessary to remark. There is not a word in my letter that justifies the insinuation that I was deriving any advantage from any advertisement of any description whatever. Instead of inserting my letter; instead of accepting my invitation to witness the operation of Traction and its effects upon certain forms of disease; notwithstanding the inducement held out, of a good breakfast, possibly to be followed by an equally good lunch, he continues to persist in a false and unjust invective against the person and his invention. I say false, because any assertion upon a question of the nature of which the party is totally ignorant, must be, to all intents and purposes, a *moral* falsehood. To his last tirade I replied in the terms of the following letter.

To the Editor of the Lancet.

6, Craven Street, Strand. Feb. 1, 1843.

SIR,—Had you manifested but a particle of that fairness and liberality which are usually allowed to the public press, I should have been spared, as I should have declined, any farther comment

on the illiberality of your conduct. On the 7th of last month, you gratuitously, and unjustly, accused me of a preconcerted scheme: an accusation much more justly chargeable on yourself, for "so little of ingenuity" does the correspondence with "*An Old Observer*" display, that the least initiated must perceive that "*An Old Observer*" is no other than your namesake, T. Wakley, Esq., M.P., and the critique-maker, Mr. Thos. Wakley, Editor of the *Lancet*. Now Sir, I wrote a letter to you, pointing out your error, which you have not thought proper to publish, because the facts there stated would have convinced every one of your readers, as I assert it has yourself, that you were mistaken in your suspicion, and that the charge was unfounded. Every circumstance in that letter, that could tend to refute your charge, you carefully keep back and conceal, while you merely hint at such parts as you think will suit your own purpose.

You state, in acknowledging that letter, that you remain of your original opinion; you must pardon me if I tell you that I cannot credit your assertion. You are referred to facts; you are referred to the parties individually concerned, who will satisfy you of the correctness of the details, as far as they are respectively engaged; and yet you assert that you remain of your original opinion. To credit your assertion, would be to pay a very bad compliment to your understanding; and I should be sorry to do so great an injustice to my own, as to acquit your heart, even at the expence of your head. Truth is a jewel of inestimable value, and I should suggest to you, in any future indulgence, that you weigh the consequences, before you arraign the conduct of others. Your observations upon the "phthisical waiter" are equally untrue; the gentleman you thus designated, is as respectable as yourself; and if I am not very greatly mistaken, you are as well acquainted with the phenomena of a *Rainbow*, as with the capricious and unjust pricks of the *Lancet*.

Yours truly,

D. CRONIN.

In the *Lancet* of February the 4th, is published the following, professing to be from "*An Old Contributor*," but who is no other than Mr. Thomas Wakley himself.

“*To the Editor.*—Sir, one Denis Cronin, in June 1832, obtained a licence from Apothecaries’ Hall to practise as an apothecary in any part of England and Wales, beyond ten miles of the City of London; and in the books of the Company, is entered as being resident at Killarney, in Ireland. In 1838, this person appeared in Noble Street, Cheapside, as a surgeon; published a few common-place observations on the Ear, Deafness, &c.; and professed to have discovered a specific for deafness, which he would make public when he had repaid himself the ‘expenses,’ which he said the discovery had cost him; asserting, at the same time, that out of immense numbers, only five cases were not immediately relieved, of which he had since cured four, the odd one being in course of improvement. He gave a list of patients, with their addresses, but how few of the patients could be found at the addresses given! Something failed in this scheme, so he visited Cheltenham once a fortnight for some time, and then disappeared. Is this Denis Cronin the Denis Cronin of Craven Street, Strand? If so, your readers will know how to appreciate his ‘cures’ of Phthisis, and the assertions of his coadjutors; while those who accept his invitations to witness them will do well to bear in mind that another *doctor*, who is fond of inviting the professional world to witness *his* cures in the *eye* line of practice, has been known to employ decoys, to *simulate* the complaint, who were no more afflicted than your obedient servant.—AN OLD CONTRIBUTOR.”

Upon the whole of these attacks it may be observed that a vein of malignant vituperation and illiberality runs through the whole. The first attack was perfectly gratuitous. If the *Lancet* doubts the efficacy of the treatment, let the Editor come and witness it, and satisfy himself. It is the duty of a public Journal to ascertain and report to the Profession the value and the efficacy of new modes of treatment; and not to coudenn, in ignorance, what it is not to its interest or its purpose to investigate. The attempt at personal abuse of myself, does, as it ought to, command my

best acknowledgments. The Public must appreciate my pretensions, being, as the *Lancet* asserts, a legally qualified practitioner of many years standing, and having devoted myself to the pathology and cure of some of the most intricate and obstinate of human diseases. Before quitting this subject, I would reply to the base insinuation in the last notice, "how few could be found at the addresses given,"—All, and a great number more than either the *Lancet*, or its "Old Contributor," ever thought proper to inquire after.

And now for the Editor.

"Come, Wakley, thou modern spectre,
'Tis time you should have a lecture."

Let me ask you by what right you call yourself a *medical man*; or upon what pretensions you erect yourself into a censor of professional morals, practice, or etiquette. Is your claim founded upon the base abandonment of a profession, scarcely entered upon; to enjoy, or to revel in all the spleen of a licentious and scurrilous Journal? Have not its pages always been open to low and contemptible abuse, no matter whence the source, what the purpose, or who the object? Ask the shade of Abernethy, whence the "Intercepted letters?" whence the "Bat Club?" In what originated the wanton and malevolent attack upon Bransby Cooper? in what the equally malignant one upon Elliotson? and many others which might be enumerated; and at a moment too, when revelling in their hospitality, and basking in the sunshine of their countenance and protection. Lastly, I will ask you but one question more:—Are

you acquainted with, or do you know anything of, the gentleman who called upon me in Craven Street to solicit a short description of Traction, with a few cases for public insertion in a certain Journal, published not a thousand miles from Essex Street ; urging that publication in a Journal which *commanded* the opinion, not only of the profession, but of the public, upon all medical subjects, would give a value to my discovery, or to any future publication of my own, that I probably but little anticipated ; and on my refusing, perhaps rather peremptorily, prophesied, “ I perhaps might have reason to repent my rashness and obstinacy.” Be good enough to ask *An Old Observer* and *An Old Contributor* if they, or either of them, are in any way acquainted with this gentleman ; and if you will acquaint me with their answer, I shall not only forgive your late injustice to me, but will in future consider, as I now subscribe, myself, your faithful and obliged friend, D. CRONIN.

P.S.—Perhaps you will request an “Old Observer,” and his confrere “An Old Contributor,” to explain how “*decoy*” ducks can simulate phthisis or asthma. Not having devoted such exclusive attention to the “*eye line of practice*,” I cannot say whether simulation in that “line” be practicable or not ; but I feel satisfied upon the question as regards Consumption and Asthma.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR,

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“ If Mr. Cronin continues as successful elsewhere as in Cheltenham, his name will not only rank high, but as a leading aurist in this country.”—*Cheltenham Chronicle*.

“ Mr. Cronin's article, in his Essay on Deafness, on the Eustachian tube, shews, not only talent, but correct surgical knowledge. Ammonia, combined with Ether, is a most decided improvement for the removal of nervous deafness, and has proved decidedly beneficial to many in this vicinity.”—*Bath Herald*.

“ From our knowledge of Mr. Cronin's merit, we read his Essay, and recommend without hesitation its perusal to our afflicted friends.”—*Sun*.

